

1952	Rising water levels and a change in flight path to the target cause abandonment of North and South Island camera stations. All facilities are removed prior to abandonment. New sites established on land west of the sea.
5 Jun 1953	Consulting engineers reported to the AEC that a continued rise in the Salton Sea water level of 1 foot annually for the next 10 years could be expected.
Mid 1953	Water covered much of the airport area. New airstrip is constructed.
1954-1955	Earth dike constructed to protect main buildings from rising water.
02 sep 1955	First press tour of the Base and facilities conducted.
1957	Successful stocking of game fish in the Salton Sea attracted many people to the area for fishing and other aquatic sports. Real estate developers advertised land for sale in resort communities. Field Test started search for other locations for a field test range.
1959-1960	Salton Sea used for testing of the Project Mercury space capsule. Sandia provided support for the program.
<u>1961-1962</u>	Navy divers recovered classified material from the bottom of the Salton Sea. Divers from the Underwater Demolition Team Number Eleven, stationed at El Centro conducted the search. In a Sandia report to the AEC, June 15, 1961, it was noted that retarded impact sites had been sufficiently searched to eliminate all security hazards.
01 Jul 1961	All testing ceases at the Salton Sea. Much equipment and most of the personnel are transferred to the Tonopah Test Range, Nevada. Caretaker status established for the base, with 17 Sandia Corporation personnel remaining to provide maintenance and security services.
29 Aug 1961	Rainstorm floods the administrative area within the dike.
August 1962	AEC assumes the caretaker operation at the base. All Sandia personnel are withdrawn. Some Navy and Air Force operations conducted.